

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00304 141450Z

ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPTE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, MZ, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND NIGERIA

REF: (A) STATE 63495 AND 63436; (B) MAPUTO 0298

1. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL AIDE FERNANDO HONWANA LAST NIGHT TO BRIEF HIM IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS. HONWANA WAS WELL-INFORMED ON RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND GRASPED QUICKLY THE POINTS WE WERE MAKING. HE PROMISED TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT MACHEL FIRST THING THIS MORNING.

2. HONWANA GAVE NO CLUE AS TO WHAT MACHEL'S THINKING MIGHT BE WITH RESPECT TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE,
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OTHER THAN TO REAFFIRM WHAT MACHEL HAS SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS, I.E., THAT MOZAMBIQUE PERCEIVES ITS ROLE GENERALLY TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HONWANA CONFESSED THAT AT TIMES IT IS DIFFICULT EVEN FOR MOZAMBIQUE TO LEARN WHAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S POSITION REALLY IS. HONWANA SAID IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF MUGABE AND NKOMO TAKE THE SAME "HARD LINE" REGARDING OUR PROPOSED CONFERENCE WITH OWEN AS THEY DID WITH SECRETARY VANCE. HONWANA

SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT MUGABE AND NKOMO MIGHT BECOME SONE-
WHAT LESS INTRANSIGENT ONCE THEY HAD STAKED OUT PUBLICLY FOR
SAKE OF THEIR FOLLOWERS A TOUGH NEGOTIATING POSITION. LEWEN AND
I NOTED THAT IT WAS JUST SUCH INTRANSIGENCE THAT HAD DELAYED
PROGRESS ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND HAD HELPED PERSUADE
MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE THERE WAS NO FUTURE FOR THEM IN THE AAP.
WE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

3. HONWANA HAD TWO QUESTIONS ON OUR PROPOSED CONFERENCE.
FIRST, HE WONDERED IF, IN SEEKING THE CONFERENCE, WE HAD CAL-
CULATED WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE IF THE CONFERENCE DID
NOT SUCCEED. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO ARRANGE POST-
MALTA TALKS, WE HAD SAID THAT WE COULD NOT AFFORD ANOTHER INCON-
CLUSIVE MEETING. WOULD WE ACTUALLY IMPROVE CHANCES FOR A SETTLE-
MENT IF ANOTHER CONFERENCE WERE HELD WITHOUT POSITIVE RESULTS?
SECOND, HONWANA ASKED IF A CONFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES MEANT THAT
CHIRAU WOULD ATTEND. WE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH NO NAMES HAD BEEN
MENTIONED IN OUR PROPOSED INVITATION FOR A CONFERENCE, PARTICIPA-
TION OF CHIRAU SEEMED TO BE IMPLICIT IN THE PHRASEOLOGY OF THE
INVITATION. HONWANA DID NOT COMMENT, BUT WITH HIS SHRUG AND RAISED
EYEBROW HE MADE THE POINT THAT CHIRAU'S PARTICIPATION MIGHT CREATE
PROBLEMS FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

4. AS HONWANA WAS LEAVING, LEWEN AND I SAID WE HOPED THERE WOULD
SOON BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US MEET WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL, SINCE
IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE MACHEL'S
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VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON OUR PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CON-
FERENCE. HONWANA SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO.
DE PREE

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